THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) to (c) Allotments of retail outlet dealerships/LPG distributorships under the Special Scheme for only widows/next of kin of Defence Personnel killed in action in 'Operation Vijay' in Kargil are at present made on the recommendations of the Ministry of Defence and after feasibilities studies of the locations are made by the Oil Companies. The Directorate General Resettlement (DGR), Ministry of Defence has so far recommended the names of 455 persons for allotment under this Scheme, of which the case of one person has been kept in abeyance on the advice of the DGR. Allotment of retail outlet dealerships/LPG distributorships to 429 persons has been approved by the Government so far.

News-item captioned, "Scientist sulks under Government's apathy"

3962. SHRI C. O. POULOSE :

SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY :

Will the Minister of PERTOLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Hindu, dated the 30th May, 2001 with the caption, "Scientist sulks under Government's apathy";

(b) if so, what prevented Government to take up his case and issue patent for his invention since the Central Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad has given the scientist's product the certificate of better fuel efficiency; and

(c) whether Government's apathy towards his invention discourage motivation for upcoming scientists and technicians ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The test conducted by the Indian Institute of Petroleum indicated that there was no improvement in thermal efficiency with the use of the device and the device did not show any saving of LPG. The Expert Group comprising members from Deptt. of Scientific and Industrial Research under the Ministry of Science and Technology, Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun, LPG Equipment Research Centre, Bangalore, National Research and Development

Centre, Delhi and Petroleum Conservation Research Association opined that the test procedure followed by Central Fuel Research Institute was not a standard one as specified for such devices. So there is no apathy on Government's part.

Swan Catchment Treatment Project

3963. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Swan Catchment Treatment Projects with an outlay of Rs. 469 crore to be undertaken in Himachal Pradesh has been approved by Government ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether work on the project has since commenced ;

(d) if so, the details thereof with progress made as on 30th June, 2001 ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) The project "Swan River Flood Management and Integrated Land Development Project--Phase--I" in District Una in Himachal Pradesh has been considered acceptable by the Planning Commission on 30-3-2000 for investment in the State plan with an estimated cost of Rs. 102.72 Crore at 1999 price level.

The work on the aforesaid project has since commenced. Work done upto 30-06-2001 as reported by the State Government comprises 2 km. of earthen embankment and 800 m. of wire crated apron in the left bank, 1 km. of earthen embankment and 150 m. of wire crated apron in the right bank besides catchment treatment works by the Forest Department comprising planting of 58,500 trees of different varieties in 50 hectare of land and vegetation of bank.

Master Plan for protection of Majuli Island

3964. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the implementation status of the Master Plan for physical protection of Majuli Island ; and